

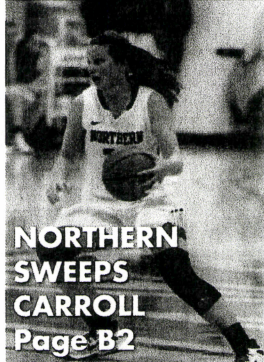
Monday  
February 22, 2016

Tuesday's weather



Sunny

Complete forecast / A2



**NORTHERN  
SWEEPS  
CARROLL  
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## Republican candidates flock to Havre dinner

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Republicans from across the Hi-Line and state flocked to the Havre Best Western Plus Inn and Suites Sunday night for their annual Lincoln-Reagan dinner, the largest fundraiser of the year for the Blaine and Hill County party chapters.

In all, 120 voters, party activists and lawmakers paid \$50 each to dine on barbeque buffet, bid on items in silent and live auctions and hear pitches from candidates for local and state-wide office.

"It's really exciting to see the quality of candidates in each of the state-wide races," said State Sen. Kris Hansen of Havre, who served as the dinner's master of ceremonies.

Most campaigns for state and local office had tables sporting banners, placards, campaign literature and other items with their names emblazoned on them.

Andrew Brekke, chair of the Hill County Republicans, said that in area state legislative races, the party has at least one candidate in all but one of the five contests. Brekke said he is in talks with a possible candidate who is considering a run for House District 32, now held by State Rep. Bruce Meyers, R-Box Elder.

Meyers has opted not to run for a second term for the Montana House seat that encompasses portions of Blaine, Chouteau, Hill and Phillips counties. Instead, he has filed to run for the Senate District 16 seat now held by the term-limited Jonathan Windy Boy, D-Box Elder.

Windy Boy, in turn, has said he plans to file to run for the District 32 House seat.

Rep. Ryan Zinke and Republican candidate for governor Greg Gianforte were the dinner's keynote speakers, describing an America and a Montana each gripped by uncertainty and angst while under the leadership of Democrats.

Zinke, the state's first-term Republican congressman is vying for a second term as Montana's lone member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He will face off against Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau, a Democrat, in November.

He said while he is optimistic about the future, it will be "a rough year" during President Barack Obama's last year in office.

"The frustration America feels is real," Zinke said to the crowd.

He attributed this angst to the lack of economic growth. He notes that Americans wages, when adjusted for inflation, haven't grown since the 1960s.

# Havre DAILY NEWS 75¢

## Series to begin on mysterious absentee owners

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For the last few years, a mysterious group of investors, going by the name Sunrise Financial among other names, has been acquiring every type of property in Hill County — Havre especially — and neglecting them.

The houses and apartments, sit, vacant and unkempt, deteriorating. Windows crack, weeds rise and slowly conquer the buildings, snakes take over the yard and already existent cracks widen. Meanwhile, the owners are nearly invisible.

Nothing, so far, has indicated that this group from Great Falls is about to

start caring for the properties or begin to entertain offers from locals who want to buy and resurrect the properties.

Starting Tuesday, Havre Daily News, in a four-part series, will take a look at the process that is allowing this group to gobble up property after property.

We'll look at the effect vacant apartments and homes are having on Havre neighborhoods, who Sunrise is and try to find out if anything can be done.

The report will end with a look into what can be done about the problems caused by this group's buying and neglecting of properties in Havre.

## SUNRISE Havre's Mystery Neighbor

# BEARS Slam Dunk

